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conc. (d) calculating the inlet flow rate (F_{inlet}) from said first and second rates; wherein steps (c) and (d) are conducted whilst the whole of the outlet aperture in the chamber is occupied by the flowable material.

26. The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein the first and second flow rate settings are the settings for flow rates toward the maximum and minimum ends of the flow rate range.

27. The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein the flow rates at the first and second flow rate settings are calculated using the flow meter for calculating the flow rate of a flowable material including: a chamber through which the flowable material can pass, the chamber having an outlet aperture at a lower end thereof of a cross section that enables flowable material to drain from the chamber at a rate less than the minimum flow rate to be measured.

A8 32. The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the calibration and re-calibration steps are conducted by the method according to a method for calibrating the rate at which flowable material is discharged from a storage vessel through a flow control means, said flow control means having a plurality of settings controlling the rate of flow of flowable material discharged from the storage vessel over a flow rate range, the method including:
(a) calculating the flow rate for a first flow rate setting of the flow control means;
(b) calculating the flow rate for a second flow rate setting of the flow control means; and
(c) calculating a flow rate versus flow control means setting expression.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 13-15, 19, 21, 25-27 and 32.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of-record, Brian H. Batzli (Reg. No. 32,960), at 612.336.4755.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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By



Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165

BHB/CBH/kas

Marked-Up Copy of Claims

5. The method as claimed in [any one of claims 2 to 4] claim 2 wherein step (b) is conducted prior to step (c).
6. The method as claimed in [any one of claims 2 to 5] claim 2 wherein the outlet aperture is one of a plurality of outlet apertures and the sum of cross sectional areas of said outlet apertures is less than the minimum flow rate to be measured.
9. The method as claimed in [claim 7 or claim 8] claim 7 wherein the outlet aperture is spaced apart from the elongate slot.
11. A flow meter for use in the method according to [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, including:
a chamber through which the flowable material can pass, the chamber including an outlet aperture at a lower end thereof and a wall defining an enclosed region above said outlet aperture, wherein the dimensions of the wall are such that flow rates can be measured whilst the whole of the outlet aperture in the chamber is occupied by flowable material.
13. The flow meter as claimed in [claim 11 or claim 12] claim 11 wherein the outlet aperture is one of a plurality of outlet apertures, and the base of the chamber is shaped to facilitate even distribution to each outlet aperture.
14. The flow meter as claimed in [any one of claims 11 to 13] claim 11 wherein the chamber further comprises outflow openings above the enclosed region of the chamber.
15. The flow meter as claimed in [any one of claims 11 to 14] claim 11 wherein the chamber includes an elongate slot.
19. The flow meter as claimed in [any one of claims 11 to 18] claim 11 wherein the outlet aperture is one of a plurality of outlet apertures.
21. The flow meter as claimed in [any one of claims 11 to 20] claim 11 including measurement means for measuring the time taken for the mass of flowable material in the meter to pass from a first mass to a second mass.

25. The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein the flow rates for the first flow rate setting and the second flow rate setting are measured by the method of determining [in any one of claims 1 to 10] an inlet flow rate (F_{inlet}) of a flowable material including:
(a) passing an inlet stream of flowable material through a chamber having an outlet aperture to one end thereof;
(b) measuring a first rate of change of quantity of material in the chamber when the material is entering at said inlet flow rate;
(c) measuring a second rate of change of quantity of material in the chamber when no material is entering the chamber; and
(d) calculating the inlet flow rate (F_{inlet}) from said first and second rates;
wherein steps (c) and (d) are conducted whilst the whole of the outlet aperture in the chamber is occupied by the flowable material.

26. The method as claimed in [claim 24 or claim 25] claim 24 wherein the first and second flow rate settings are the settings for flow rates toward the maximum and minimum ends of the flow rate range.

27. The method as claimed in [any one of claims 24 to 26] claim 24 wherein the flow rates at the first and second flow rate settings are calculated using the flow meter [defined in any one of claims 20 to 23] for calculating the flow rate of a flowable material including: a chamber through which the flowable material can pass, the chamber having an outlet aperture at a lower end thereof of a cross section that enables flowable material to drain from the chamber at a rate less than the minimum flow rate to be measured.

32. The method as claimed in [any one of claims 28 to 31] claim 28 wherein the calibration and re-calibration steps are conducted by the method according to [any one of claims 24 to 31] a method for calibrating the rate at which flowable material is discharged from a storage vessel through a flow control means, said flow control means having a plurality of settings controlling the rate of flow of flowable material discharged from the storage vessel over a flow rate range, the method including:
(a) calculating the flow rate for a first flow rate setting of the flow control means;
(b) calculating the flow rate for a second flow rate setting of the flow control means; and
(c) calculating a flow rate versus flow control means setting expression.